Message Text

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11

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:LWILLEMS:REH APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE INR/RSE/SOV - DGRAVES-SUBSTANCE EUR/SOV - MGARRISON S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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R 192353Z AUG 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CSCE, IS, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW CONTROL OF SOVIET EXIT VISA ISSUANCE

REF: TEL AVIV 5490

- 1. AT SOME APPROPRIATE OCCASION EMBASSY MAY WISH TO ASK LEVANON OR APPROPRIATE ISRAELI OFFICIAL WHETHER GOI HAS ANY HARD INFORMATION ABOUT EXIT VISA QUOTE QUOTAS UNQUOTE. IN SOVIET SYSTEM THIS WOULD MEAN THAT EACH REPUBLIC AND LOCAL VISA OFFICE (OVIR) IS GIVEN A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF VISAS IT CAN ISSUE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF TIME. WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MOSCOW CONTROLS GENERAL LEVEL OF EXIT VISA ISSUANCE, PRESUMABLY THROUGH ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES TO VISA OFFICES, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTE SPECIFIC QUOTA AS SUGGESTED BY LEVANON.
- 2. ONE REFERENCE IN CURRENT LITERATURE IS IN LEONARD SCHROETER'S QUOTE THE LAST EXODUS UNQUOTE, UNIVERSE BOOKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW YORK, 1974, PAGE 352; QUOTE...THE PATTERN ESTABLISHED

IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1971, OF APPROXIMATELY 2,500 JEWS PER MONTH, CONTINUED THROUGH 1972-73. THE NUMBER WAS NOT CONSTANT; THERE WERE SLOW PERIODS IN THE MIDSUMMER (PRESUMABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FACT THAT OVIR WORKERS WERE ON SUMMER VACATION) AND HIGH POINTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR

(WHICH SOME HAVE ATTRIBUTED TO OVIR'S NEED TO MEET A QUOTA AND STAY ON THE SOVIET QUOTE PLAN UNQUOTE).... END QUOTE

3. FYI EVEN IF MODEL SUGGESTED ABOVE IS CORRECT, WE DOUBT ON BASIS OUR EXPERIENCE THAT ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL TO SOVIET JEWS INTENDING TO COME TO US SIGNIFICANTLY DETRACTS FROM ISSUANCE OF EXIT VISAS TO OTHER SOVIET JEWS WHO WISH TO GO TO ISRAEL. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: JEWS, EMIGRANTS, EXIT VISAS

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Subject: MOSCOW CONTROL OF SOVIET EXIT VISA ISSUANCE TAGS: SREF, IS, UR, CSCE

To: TEL AVIV

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